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evidence the testimony of contemporary French official letters as to Coxe's influence in determining the actual occupation by France.¹⁹

FRANK E. MELVIN

SALLING'S JOURNEY IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

The late Dr. Lyman C. Draper, early in his career became cognizant of the journey taken some hundred years before from the forks of the James River to New Orleans by one Salling (or Salley), and made many attempts to secure accurate information thereon. He wrote the following article during his latter years, when engaged on a revision of Alexander Wither's *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, a task completed by the late Dr. R. G. Thwaites. Although the journal for which Dr. Draper had searched so many years was discovered by Dr. William M. Darlington of Pittsburgh, and printed in the appendix to his *Christopher Gist's Journals* (Pittsburgh, 1893), pages 253-260, nevertheless Dr. Draper's account thereof is worthy of publication, embodying, as it does, considerable additional information and revealing the historical methods of so notable a collector.

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG

JOHN PETER SALLINGS'S ADVENTURES

[Draper MSS., 21U1-8.]

Salling is the proper orthography of the name, though generally pronounced Sallee, and sometimes so written.

John Peter Salling — sometimes spoken of as Peter Adam Salling — was a native of Germany, or, at least, of German descent, and, with his brother Henry, early settled in the forks of James river and the North Branch, in the southern portion of what is now Rockbridge County, Virginia. His place of residence is noted on Fry and Jefferson's map of Virginia, of 1751. The details of his early western explorations are involved in doubt; but the fact that he made such adventures is undoubted.

Hugh Paul Taylor, in his sketch,²⁰ fixed on the period of about 1724

¹⁹ Cf. n. 18. Especially the letter of Pontchartrain to D'Iberville *et al.* in Margry, *Découvertes et établissements*, 4.

²⁰ Hugh Paul Taylor was a local Virginia historian related to the Stuarts of Greenbriar. In the decade 1820-1830 he contributed a number of "Sketches" of early western Virginia settlement to the Fincastle (Virginia) *Mirror*, under the pseudonym "Son of Cornstalk." In the first of these he mentions Salling's voyage, and

as the time of Salling's adventurous travels; but Withers, evidently pe[r]ceiving that the time was too early, omitted the date; about 1738-'40 was the probable time of their occurrence. Over forty years ago,²¹ the tradition of his descendants was, that Salling and a son were employed by the Governor of Virginia to explore the country to the South-West; and when near the present Salem, Roanoke county, they were captured by a party of Cherokees, perhaps on a war excursion, and carried by them to the Ohio river—one account says they were taken down the Tennessee river, while another says down the New or Kan-hawa to its mouth, in a portable boat made of buffalo skins; that when they reached the lower Mississippi, they fell into the hands of the Spaniards.²² The son soon dying the father was put on board a Spanish vessel to be sent to Spain as a spy, and to elicit from him information as to the designs of the British; but the vessel was captured by a British craft, and Salling was landed at Charleston, South Carolina, and soon reached his James River home, after an absence of over three years, and just in time to prevent his wife from consummating a second marriage, not doubting, from the long period that had intervened since his departure, that he had fallen a victim to the savages or some of the many dangers of journeying in the wilderness.

Another tradition as given in Kercheval's *History of the Valley of Virginia*, is that John Howard was one of the four primitive settlers on the Wappatomica or South Branch of the Potowmac about 1734 or 1735. That at some time not long anterior, Howard and his son had explored the country and discovered the beautiful valley of Wappatomica; and crossing the Alleghany mountains, killed a very large buffalo bull, and by stretching his hide over ribs of wood, improvised a boat in which they descended the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans, where they were apprehended by the French as suspicious characters, sent to France, but finding nothing against them, they were discharged. Crossing over to England they met Lord Fairfax,²³ and gave him such a glowing description of the fertility and beauty of the Wappitomica gives traditions of his adventures at Kaskaskia and among the Indians. See Draper MSS., 31S486-490.

²¹ The sources of information for the statements that follow were letters from Samuel D. Campbell of Rockbridge County, Virginia, written in 1848, after interviewing at Draper's request the descendants of Salling then living in his neighborhood. Draper MSS., 8ZZ43.

²² Dr. Draper was certainly aware that the Spaniards were not on the lower Mississippi at this time; but he is citing from Campbell's information that confused the governors of New Orleans in the first half of the eighteenth century with those of the latter half.

²³ This tradition of the source of Lord Fairfax's information concerning the region of the South Branch is interesting.

[sic] valley, as determined his Lordship at once to secure it as manors, and settle it by means of tenants, which he accomplished.

In the *History of Louisiana* by Du Pratz, London edition, 1774, p. 62 note, it is stated on authority of a *Report of the Government of Virginia*, that, "in 1742, John Howard, Sallee and others, were sent from Virginia, to view those countries, were made prisoners by the French, who came from a settlement they had on an island, a little above the Ohio, where they made salt, lead, etc., and went from thence, in a fleet of boats and canoes, to New Orleans, guarded by a large armed Schooner."

The settlement alluded to by Du Pratz must have been Kaskaskia, abreast of which is a large island in the Mississippi, which appears to have had settlers on it at this time; and on the western side of the river, near St. Genevieve, were salt springs from which salt was manufactured. Very likely the Indians came there with lead, which they bartered for salt.

It appears that Salling kept a journal of his adventures, which was extant in 1745, when Col. John Buchanan, it would seem, visited the hardy explorer, and spent a couple of days in copying, at least, a portion of it, as is shewn by a diary or memoranda kept at the time, in the writer's possession.²⁴

Salling must have returned from his romantic adventures in the West as early as 1742, as his name appears in September of that year in a roll, still extant, of Capt. John McDowell's militia company,²⁵ and very likely shared in McDowell's fight with the Indians, Dec. 14th, 1742, in which that worthy captain, the ancestor of Gov^r. McDowell, of Virginia, lost his life.

As early as 1746, Salling is named as a Captain of Militia in that part of Augusta County which subsequently became Rockbridge; in September of the following year, he is cited to appear at the next court martial, for non-attendance at the general muster, just held.²⁶ This is the last certain record we have of this early and meritorious explorer of the wilds of the west. He probably survived several years, leaving descend-

²⁴ Draper MSS., 1QQ39. Colonel John Buchanan's journal, October 5-9, 1845, relates his stay at "Peter Salley's" and that he spent two days copying his journal. It was probably this entry that first aroused Draper's interest, as Buchanan's journal came to him among the Preston series, one of his earliest acquisitions.

²⁵ Draper MSS., 1QQ17. These lists are undated, Draper gives the date from contemporary evidence. From his journal published in Darlington's *Gist's Journals*, we must infer that Salling was not in Augusta County at the date Draper gives. Either his name was retained on the list as an inhabitant of the district, or the list itself was drawn before March, 1742.

²⁶ Draper MSS., 1QQ36.

ants, some of whom quite recently occupied some of the broad acres their honored ancestor had located more than a century before; while others, who have changed their names to Sallee, reside in Tennessee; and yet others in Kentucky, representing their districts in the Legislature.

PETITION FOR A WESTERN STATE, 1780

In 1895, Frederick J. Turner in his epoch-making article on "Western State Making in the Revolutionary Era," published in the first number of the *American Historical Review*, called attention to the petition drawn up in 1780 for a new state west of the Alleghenies. So far as we are aware this document, found in the Draper MSS., has never before been published *in extenso* with accompanying letters revealing the authorship of the petition. According to these letters the memorial was prepared at the September meeting of the Yohogania County court, and forwarded to Colonel David Shepherd to secure the approbation of Ohio County, before presentation to Congress. Benjamin Johnston, author of the letters, was a new member of Yohogania court, having been recommended in May, 1780, as justice; he had also received about the same time a commission as deputy surveyor for the same county.²⁷ The memorial is in his handwriting, but as he mentions it as a "copy," it would seem to have been a joint product of the Yohogania officers, several of whom were residents of Pittsburgh. Among the joint authors such well-known westerners as: Edward Ward, who in 1754, surrendered the fort on the site of Pittsburgh to the French; William Crawford, Washington's land agent, victim of Indian malignity in 1782; William Harrison, his son-in-law; John Cannon, founder of Cannonsburg (Pennsylvania), and Jefferson College; Thomas Brown, founder of Brownsville (Pennsylvania); Samuel Semple, attorney at Pittsburgh, and others less known to posterity.

There seems to be no evidence that this petition was ever presented to Congress; its interest lies in its revelation of the temper of the men of the western waters: their impatience of eastern control; their appreciation of the future greatness of their ter-

²⁷ "Minute Book of the Virginia Court Held for Yokogania County," in Carnegie Museum (Pittsburgh), *Annals*, 2:417, 424. The last portion of this document is missing, so there are no records of the September court proceedings.